

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for compiling and maintaining documents, comprising:
 - electronically receiving a plurality of documents, each of the documents being received from an authoring entity of the corresponding document;
 - maintaining a central repository for electronically storing the documents, including:
 - associating each of the documents with the corresponding authoring entity; and
 - identifying a subject matter for each of the documents;
 - selectively providing access to the stored documents in the central repository; and
 - selectively permitting downloading of the stored documents from the central repository.

2. A method for compiling and maintaining litigation-related documents, comprising:
 - receiving litigation-related documents, filed with adjudication entities, from corresponding representatives without requiring submission of the documents by or to the adjudication entities;
 - maintaining a central repository for electronically storing the litigation-related documents, including:
 - organizing the litigation-related documents in a data structure; and

associating each of the litigation-related documents with the corresponding adjudication entity in which the litigation-related document was filed; and selectively providing access to the stored litigation-related documents.

3. The method of claim 2, further including selectively permitting downloading of the litigation-related documents in a plurality of formats.
4. The method of claim 3, further including:
 - receiving a request to download one of the litigation-related documents;
 - receiving an indication of a requested format for the one litigation-related document; and
 - providing the one litigation-related document in the requested format.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein the selectively providing step includes:
 - receiving a search query for the litigation-related documents;
 - searching the litigation-related documents based upon the search query; and
 - providing results of the searching.
6. The method of claim 2 wherein the receiving step includes receiving the litigation-related documents via e-mail.

7. The method of claim 2, further including receiving an electronic version of documents referenced by the litigation-related documents.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the receiving the electronic version step includes receiving exhibits associated with the litigation-related documents.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the maintaining step includes:
organizing the electronic version of the referenced documents in the data structure; and

associating the referenced documents with the corresponding litigation-related documents.

10. The method of claim 2 wherein the maintaining step includes maintaining the litigation-related documents as a neutral third party with respect to the representatives.

11. The method of claim 2 wherein the maintaining step includes providing one or more uniform templates for presentation of the litigation-related documents.

12. The method of claim 2, further including maintaining a separate repository containing hard copies of the litigation-related documents.

13. The method of claim 2, further including charging users a fee for on-line access to the litigation-related documents in the central repository.

140081523 - 02/20

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the step of charging a fee includes charging one or more of the following: a flat fee based upon a time period; a fee based upon time of use; a fee based upon downloading of the litigation-related documents; a fee based upon uploading of the litigation-related documents to the central repository; or discounted fees based upon particular criteria related to the users.

15. The method of claim 2, further including permitting a user to access on-line the litigation-related documents in the central repository in exchange for the user's agreement to receive on-line advertisements.

16. The method of claim 2, further including permitting a user to select options to access on-line the litigation-related documents, the options including paying a fee and not agreeing to receive on-line advertisements, and paying no fee and agreeing to receive the on-line advertisements.

17. The method of claim 2, further including providing users with on-line advertisement space at no fee or at a reduced fee in exchange for the users agreeing to require others to use the central repository.

18. The method of claim 2, further including hyperlinking the litigation-related documents with information referenced in the litigation-related documents.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the hyperlinking step includes hyperlinking one or more of the following with the litigation-related documents: exhibits; case law; statutes; secondary authorities; or other authorities.

20. An apparatus for compiling and maintaining litigation-related documents, comprising:

an electronically accessible network location;

a central repository for specifying a data structure for storing information; and

a machine for maintaining the network location and storing information in the central repository, the machine operating to perform a method including:

uploading litigation-related documents, filed with adjudication entities, from corresponding representatives via the network location without requiring submission of the documents by or to the adjudication entities;

storing the litigation-related documents in the central repository;

associating each of the litigation-related documents with the

corresponding adjudication entity in which the litigation-related document was filed; and

selectively downloading the stored litigation-related documents.

21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the electronically accessible network location includes a web site accessible via a network address.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, further including a site map for organizing a structure of information accessible via the web site.

23. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the selectively downloading step includes permitting downloading of the litigation-related documents in a plurality of formats.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the method further includes:
receiving a request to download one of the litigation-related documents;
receiving an indication of a requested format for the one litigation-related document; and
providing the one litigation-related document in the requested format.

25. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the method further includes selectively providing access to the litigation-related documents.

26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the selectively providing step includes:
receiving a search query for the litigation-related documents;
searching the litigation-related documents based upon the search query; and
providing results of the searching.

27. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the uploading step includes receiving the litigation-related documents via e-mail.

28. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the method further includes receiving an electronic version of documents referenced by the litigation-related documents.

29. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the receiving the electronic version step includes receiving exhibits associated with the litigation-related documents.

30. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the storing step includes:

storing the electronic version of the referenced documents in the central repository; and

associating the referenced documents with the corresponding litigation-related documents.

31. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the storing step includes maintaining the litigation-related documents as a neutral third party with respect to the representatives.

32. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the storing step includes providing one or more uniform templates for presentation of the litigation-related documents.

33. The apparatus of claim 20, further including a module for maintaining a separate repository containing hard copies of the litigation-related documents.

34. The apparatus of claim 20, further including a fee module for charging users a fee for on-line access to the litigation-related documents in the central repository.

35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the fee module includes a module for charging one or more of the following: a flat fee based upon a time period; a fee based upon time of use; a fee based upon downloading of the litigation-related documents; a fee based upon uploading of the litigation-related documents to the central repository; or discounted fees based upon particular criteria related to the users.

36. The apparatus of claim 20, further including an access module for permitting a user to access on-line the litigation-related documents in the central repository in exchange for the user's agreement to receive on-line advertisements.

37. The apparatus of claim 20, further including an access module for permitting a user to select options to access on-line the litigation-related documents, the options including paying a fee and not agreeing to receive on-line advertisements, and paying no fee and agreeing to receive the on-line advertisements.

38. The apparatus of claim 20, further including an advertisement module for providing users with on-line advertisement space at no fee or at a reduced fee in exchange for the users agreeing to require others to use the central repository.

39. The apparatus of claim 20, further including a linking module for hyperlinking the litigation-related documents with information referenced in the litigation-related documents.

40. The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the linking module includes a module for hyperlinking one or more of the following with the litigation-related documents: exhibits; case law; statutes; secondary authorities; or other authorities.

41. A method for compiling and maintaining documents, comprising:
receiving a plurality of documents, each of the documents being received from an authoring entity of the corresponding document; and

maintaining a central repository for storing the documents, including:
associating each of the documents with the corresponding authoring entity; and
identifying a subject matter for each of the documents; and
selectively providing access to the stored documents in the central repository.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein the maintaining step includes storing the litigation-related documents in one or more of the following media: an electronic media; a magnetic media; an optical media; a paper-based media; or any non-electronic media.

43. A method for compiling and maintaining litigation-related documents, comprising:

receiving litigation-related documents, filed with adjudication entities, from corresponding representatives without requiring submission of the documents by or to the adjudication entities;

maintaining a central repository for storing the litigation-related documents, including:

organizing the litigation-related documents; and

associating each of the litigation-related documents with the corresponding adjudication entity in which the litigation-related document was filed; and

selectively providing access to the stored litigation-related documents.

44. The method of claim 43 wherein the maintaining step includes storing the litigation-related documents in one or more of the following media: an electronic media; a magnetic media; an optical media; a paper-based media; or any non-electronic media.

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